

Library & Leisure Services

Budget Message

FY 2002/03

In FY 2001/02 the **Department of Library & Leisure Services** continued keeping service to its more than four million visitors a year a top priority.

The Library book circulation is the **Library Service Division's** most popular service with over 2.5 million books checked out annually. In 2001, the Seminole County Public Library System remained first in the state for children's program attendance per capita among library systems with service populations over 350,000.

The **Parks & Recreation Division's** boating ramps are another popular attraction with over 480,000 users annually. The Florida Boating Improvements Program assists the County in making needed improvements to these heavily used facilities.

Countywide trails have seen increased use on the Seminole Wekiva and Crossings Trails. This trend is expected to continue with the opening of more sections of the Seminole Wekiva Trail scheduled in late 2002. The new sections will be maintained at the current service level with no additional County staff by using a maintenance contract. A Trails Minimarker Program is planned by FY 2002/03 to enhance the trail system by commemorating historic sites.

Work continues at the **Historical Museum**. Extensive renovations to the existing structure are ongoing and construction of the new exhibit building is scheduled to be complete in late 2002. The entire complex is scheduled to be opened to the public in early 2003.

The **Cooperative Extension Service** has increased their programming efforts by 32% in

FY 2001/02. More instruction has been given in the areas of Family and Consumer Science and Health and Food Safety.

In FY 2002/03, lights will be installed on one of the soccer fields at Sylvan Lake Park to enable nighttime play. Similarly, a grant to West Seminole Pony Baseball will provide new lights for the fields there. Soldier's Creek Park will receive new lighting, landscaping and parking lot improvements.